

**CLAIMS**

1. Vehicle comprising an electric machine having a powering engine function and a storage battery for running the electric motor, characterized in that it comprises means for charging the battery from an electric power source external to the vehicle with a power permitting rapid charge, for example, on the order of magnitude of ten minutes.

2. Vehicle in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the means for charging the battery are arranged such as to permit charging via the intermediary of a three-phase supply network, for example, of the 380-V type.

3. Vehicle in accordance with claim 1 or 2, characterized in that it comprises means for charging the battery with a second power that is substantially lower than the first one.

4. Vehicle in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the means for charging at the second power are such that they permit charging via the intermediary of a single-phase supply network.

5. Vehicle in accordance with one of the above claims, characterized in that the means for charging the battery by means of an external power source comprise filtering means for isolating the source from electromagnetic interferences generated onboard the vehicle.

6. Vehicle in accordance with one of the above claims, characterized in that the means for charging the battery by means of an external source comprise means for balancing the phases of the supply network.

7. Vehicle in accordance with one of the above claims, characterized in that it comprises a switch (80) having a first position, in which the electric machine is connected to power supply from the battery and a second position in which the battery is connected with an external charging power source, the connection between the motor and the battery now being interrupted, the switch being an integral part of an electric outlet located in the vehicle and being intended to cooperate with a complementary outlet of a network, the switch automatically assuming the second position when the electric outlet of the vehicle is cooperating with the complementary outlet of the network.

8. Vehicle in accordance with one of the above claims, characterized

- 9 -

in that being of the hybrid type, it comprises an internal combustion engine, the electric motor likewise playing the role of an electric power generator for supplying a charging current for the storage battery when it is operating as a generator, a control device with a calculation means being provided for automatically determining the mode of powering, with internal combustion engine and/or with electric motor, depending on the state of charge of the battery and the required torque of the vehicle.

9. Vehicle in accordance with claim 8, characterized in that the means for charging the battery comprise a means (70) acting as a rectifier for the charging and operating as an inverter when the machine is operating as a motor supplied by the battery.

10. Vehicle in accordance with claim 8 or 9, characterized in that it comprises a two-position automatic switch (74) having a first position in which the electric machine is connected for battery supply and a second position in which the battery is connected with an external charging power source, the connection between the motor and the battery now being interrupted.

11. Vehicle in accordance with one of the claims 8 through 10, characterized in that the control device (28<sub>1</sub>) comprises an additional control means that can be actuated from the interior of the vehicle in order to make it possible to select the mode of powering freely.

12. Vehicle in accordance with claim 11, characterized in that the additional control means is connected to the calculation means.